

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

----- 074326

R 270345Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7503

UNCLAS SAIGON 17066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, VS

SUBJECT: NARCOTIC SENTENCES IMPOSED IN SOUTH VIETNAM

FOLLOWING TEL FROM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK RECEIVED SEP 26, 1973  
SENT ACTION DEA HQS WASHDC INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS  
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 15092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR (VS)

SUBJ: NARCOTIC SENTENCES IMPOSED IN SOUTH VIETNAM

DEA HQS PASS DURKIN/EN; BELK/INO FROM DICK  
SAIGON PASS DEA/CUNNINGHAM

REF : SAIGON 17021

1. ON 25 SEP 73. THE VIETNAM FELONY COURT OF THE SECOND  
INSTANCE CONVICTED JOSEPH BERGER, WITH ALIASES,  
DA3-H2, VA-72-0002, OF VIOLATION OF VIETNAMESE NARCOTIC  
LAWS AND SENTENCED HIM TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.  
BERGER, A U.S. CITIZEN 67 YEARS OF AGE CAME TO  
SOUTHEAST ASIA ABOUT 16 YEARS AGO. SINCE THAT TIME  
HE HAS PROSPERED IN A NUMBER OF ASIAN COUNTRIES AS A  
RESULT OF HIS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. HE STARTED WITH A  
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GAMBLING CASINO IN KOREA AND LATER BRANCHED OUT INTO GOLD

SMUGGLING. FOR APPROXIMATELY THE PAST TEN YEARS HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE AS A NARCOTICS SMUGGLER AND COURIER FOR SEVERAL CHINESE SYNDICATES SUPPLYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPIUM AND HEROIN TO VIETNAM FROM THAILAND AND LAOS. HE HAS ALSO FUNCTIONED AS AN INDEPENDENT DRUG OPERATOR AND A MAJOR RETAIL DISTRIBUTOR OF HEROIN NO. FOUR IN THE CITY OF SAIGON.

2. ON THIS SAME DATE THIS COURT ALSO CONVICTED WAN PEN FEN (5502/2609/5358), DA\$1H1, VA-72-0002, OF VIOLATION OF THE VIETNAMESE NARCOTIC LAWS AND SENTENCED HIM TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. WAN PEN FEN HAS PLAYED A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA AND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR OVER TEN YEARS. HE WAS A FINANCIER AND A MAJOR TRAFFICKER IN THE MAE SAE, THAILAND AREA DURING THE LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S. HE WAS REPORTEDLY A SHAREHOLDER IN THE NOW DEFUNCT BAN HOUEI TAP REFINERY AND LABORATORY IN LAOS. THIS LABORATORY SUPPLIED SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF HEROIN NUMBER FOUR TO G.O. DRUG USERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM DURING 1970 AND 1971. WAN ALSO OPERATED FROM BANGKOK AND FROM SAIGON AS A MAJOR WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR OF HEROIN NO. FOUR. HE WAS SPOTTED AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT, SAIGON ENTERING VIETNAM FROM BANGKOK ON THE MORNING OF 12 JULY 1973 AND WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTIC SQUAD. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS BEEN HELD IN CUSTODY AT SAIGON AWAITING TRIAL AND DISPOSITION.

3. ONG KY, VA-72-0002, DRIVER OF THE TOYOTA VEHICLE WHICH WAS AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT ON 12 JULY 1973 TO MEET WAN PEN FEN WAS LIKEWISE CONVICTED IN THE SAME COURT ON THE SAME DATE AND SENTENCED TO A FIVE YEAR TERM.

4. ALSO SENTENCED WAS LUU SE HON (0491/0099/3352), WG-72-0001, WHO RECEIVED A FIVE YEAR TERM FOR VIOLATION OF THE VIETNAMESE NARCOTIC LAWS.

5. LY BINH KHUE, VA-72-0002, A PERIPHERAL MEMBER OF THE WAN PEN FEN ORGANIZATION WAS ACQUITTED BY THIS COURT AND RELEASED.

6. ALL OF THOSE CONVICTED HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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FIVE DAYS TO THE VIETNAMESE SUPREME COURT. DEA SAIGON DISTRICT OFFICE WILL ASCERTAIN THE DETAILS OF THE SPECIFIC CHARGES ON WHICH THE FOREGOING WERE CONVICTED AND SUBMIT SAME TO HEADQUARTERS VIA DEA FORM 6 REPORT.

7. BRO COMMENDS DEA SAIGON FOR EXCELLENT RESULTS IN ABOVE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH REQUIRED CONSTANT AND CLOSE COORDINATION WITH VIETNAMESE NATIONAL POLICE COUNTERPARTS.

MASTERS  
UNQUOTE.  
APPLING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG TRAFFIC, DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, HEROIN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NARCOTIC SENTENCES IMPOSED IN SOUTH VIETNAM FOLLOWING TEL FROM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK RECEIVED SEP 26, 1973  
**TAGS:** SNAR, VS, US, (BERGER, JOSEPH)  
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